

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) A plastic fluid transfer device, comprising:

a lid portion;

an edge portion formed integrally with the lid portion, the edge portion and lid portion defining a space for receiving a bead of a container closed by an elastic stopper; and

a piercing mandrel formed integrally with and extending from the lid portion, the piercing mandrel including a piercing portion configured to pierce completely through a thickness of the elastic stopper from an external surface of the elastic stopper outside the container to an internal surface of the elastic stopper inside the container as the bead is received in the space, the piercing portion including a pointed end and a cylindrical portion of constant diameter,

the piercing mandrel further including a conical sealing portion adjoining the cylindrical portion, the conical sealing portion having a diameter that continuously increases from the cylindrical portion to a position proximate the lid portion, and widening to the lid portion, the conical sealing portion being configured to seal a tear in the elastic stopper formed upon eccentric application of the fluid transfer device to the elastic stopper.

41. (Currently Amended) A plastic fluid transfer device, comprising:

a lid portion;

an edge portion formed integrally with the lid portion, the edge portion and lid portion defining a space for receiving a bead of a container closed by an elastic stopper;
and

a piercing mandrel formed integrally with and extending from the lid portion,
the piercing mandrel including a piercing portion configured to pierce completely through a thickness of the elastic stopper from an external surface of the elastic stopper outside the container to an internal surface of the elastic stopper inside the container as the bead is received in the space, the piercing portion including a pointed end and a cylindrical portion of constant diameter,

the piercing mandrel further including a conical sealing portion adjoining the cylindrical portion and widening to the lid portion, the conical sealing portion being configured to seal a tear in the elastic stopper formed upon eccentric application of the fluid transfer device to the elastic stopper. ~~The fluid transfer device of claim 40, wherein the sealing portion of the piercing mandrel is configured to penetrate the elastic stopper when the bead is substantially disposed in the space.~~

42. (Previously Presented) The fluid transfer device of claim 40, wherein the edge portion includes an inward projection configured to center the bead as the bead is received within the space.

43. (Previously Presented) The fluid transfer device of claim 42, wherein the inward projection is further configured to engage a behind portion of the bead when the bead is substantially disposed in the space.

44. (Previously Presented) The fluid transfer device of claim 43, wherein a first axial distance between the inward projection and the sealing portion is less than a second axial distance between the inward projection and a surface of the elastic stopper facing the lid portion when the bead is substantially in the space.

45. (Previously Presented) The fluid transfer device of claim 40, wherein the piercing mandrel is stationary relative to the lid portion when the piercing portion pierces the elastic stopper.

46. (Previously Presented) The fluid transfer device of claim 42, wherein the inward projection is disposed radially around the piercing mandrel even before the piercing portion pierces the elastic stopper.

47. (Previously Presented) The fluid transfer device of claim 42, wherein the piercing portion is disposed further away from the lid portion than the inward projection.

48. (Previously Presented) The fluid transfer device of claim 43, wherein the sealing portion is configured to contact the elastic stopper substantially at the same time as when the inward projection engages with the behind portion of the bead.

49. (Previously Presented) The fluid transfer device of claim 42, wherein a portion of the edge portion extends away from both the lid portion and the inward projection.

50. (Previously Presented) The fluid transfer device of claim 42, wherein the edge portion includes a free edge extending away from the inward projection at least partly along a direction substantially parallel to a central longitudinal axis of the space.

51. (Previously Presented) The fluid transfer device of claim 50, wherein the free edge has an outer diameter larger than an outer diameter of both the inward projection and a portion of the edge portion between the inward projection and the lid portion.

52. (Previously Presented) The fluid transfer device of claim 50, wherein the free edge has an inner diameter larger than an outer diameter of both the inward projection and a portion of the edge portion between the inward projection and the lid portion.